



Hebburn Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ON THE

Sanitary Conditions of the District
during the year 1943.

HEBBURN-ON-TYNE :

Printed by SMITH BROS. (Hebburn & Jarrow), Ltd.
Lyon Street.

1944.



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HEBBURN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1943—1944.

Chairman.

R. Ferguson.

Vice-Chairman.

W. Craig.

MEMBERS.

West Ward.

Mrs. S. McIntyre.

J. Flannagan.

A. Iley.

Central Ward.

W. Towler.

County Coun. C. Ellison.

J. H. Phillips.

North Ward.

Mrs. H. Stevenson.

G. Watson.

Mrs. A. Davies.

East Ward.

J. McCourt.

W. Brown.

F. E. Bell.

Victoria Ward.

C. G. Popay.

W. Craig.

W. Hill.

South Ward.

H. Oake.

R. Ferguson.

R. Cooper.

Monkton Ward.

J. Wright.

A. Carr.

A. B. Collins.

Hospital Committee.

CHAIRMAN :

A. B. Collins.

MEMBERS :

F. E. Bell.

W. Craig.

H. Oake.

J. H. Phillips.

Mrs. A. Davies.

Mrs. H. Stevenson.

R. Cooper.

SYNOPSIS.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
ARGYLE STREET,
HEBBURN,
DECEMBER, 1943.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Hebburn Urban
District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my sixth Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the district for the year end December 31st, 1943.

There have been several improvements to record in the health statistics for this year, the Infantile Mortality rate was 64 per 1,000 which is the 2nd lowest rate ever recorded, and is a distinct achievement for the 4th year of War. 39 more children were born than last year and the Birth Rate of 20.7 per 1,000 is the highest since 1931.

There were fewer notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and there were 3 fewer deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were 47 cases of Diphtheria compared with 60 last year.

Adverse features were the increase in the number of deaths from Influenza, the increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and the increase in the notifications of Pneumonia.

The uncorrected Death Rate was 13.7 per 1,000 of the population. There has undoubtedly been an improvement in the general standard of health during the year. This is a remarkable achievement for the 4th year of War. The credit must go largely to the Ministry of Food who have distributed milk, orange juice and other vitamin preparations more widely throughout the general population than has ever been achieved before.

I should like to draw particular attention to the Report on Housing submitted by Mr. E. Cheate, as the provision of new houses is the most urgent problem facing us at the present time. Overcrowding is not decreasing but rather tending to increase. It is to be hoped that re-housing, when it does commence will proceed uninterruptedly for many years, until we have overtaken the loss due to the suspension of building during the past 5 years.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

J. A. FORREST,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer J. A. Forrest, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.

Sanitary Inspector—Robert McKellar, A.R.San.I., C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—Ernest Cheate, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed 15th March, 1943).

Chief Clerk to Health Department—David A. McGuinness.

Shorthand-Typist to Health Department—Miss Frances Tollett, (temporary, commenced 15th April, 1943).

Cleansing Superintendent—Thomas Taggart.

Matron of Isolation Hospital—Miss L. Aitken Blain, S.R.N., C.N.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area—1,676.415 acres.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book at end of 1943—6,163.

Rateable Value (at 31st December, 1943)—£99,729.

A penny rate represents £369.

Poor Law Relief.

The following information is kindly supplied by Mr. Hudson, Relieving Officer:—

Number of persons receiving out-door relief during 1943	1,670
Average weekly number of persons receiving in-door relief during 1943	133
Total number of persons receiving in-door relief during 1943	281
Cost of Relief during 1943	£12,450

NURSING IN THE HOME.

General.—There are two voluntary Nursing Associations in the District each of which maintains a District Nurse.

During 1943 the total number of cases nursed was 319 and the total number of visits paid was 7,963.

Members subscription for these associations are 2/- per year, 2/6 is charged for a first visit to a non-subscriber who thereafter is expected to join the Association.

The Local Authority makes an annual grant of £25 to each Nursing Association.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate	421	197	224	
Illegitimate	29	13	16	
				Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 20.7.
Still Births—				
Legitimate	23	11	12	
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 50.6.
Deaths	298	171	127	
				Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resi- dent population 13.7.
Deaths from Puerperal Cases:—	Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 Total Births.		
Puerperal Sepsis	—	...	—	
Other puerperal causes	1	...	2.1	
	—		—	
Other puerperal causes	1	...	2.1	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—				
All infants per 1,000 live births				64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				66
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...				34

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	6

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the Vital Statistics of the District for 1943 and previous years:—

Year.	Estimated Resident Population.	Births.		Deaths.		Infantile Mortality Rate.
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	
1931	24,290	531	21.8	323	13.3	96
1932	24,150	442	18.3	311	12.5	104
1933	23,770	438	17.4	308	12.9	86
1934	23,740	464	18.5	307	12.9	108
1935	23,350	404	19.3	304	13.0	87
1936	22,939	430	18.7	305	13.3	91
1937	22,700	383	16.9	288	12.7	68
1938	22,950	435	19.0	269	11.7	69
1939	23,490	414	17.6	276	12.0	48
1940	21,770	444	20.4	311	14.3	65
1941	22,200	401	18.0	343	15.5	128
1942	21,950	411	18.7	287	13.1	80
1943	21,760	450	20.7	298	13.7	64

Births.

During 1943 there were 450 live births compared with 411 in 1942. This gives a birth rate of 20.7 per 1,000 population. This is well above the birth rate for England and Wales, which was 16.5 per 1,000 population. Of the 450 births 210 were male and 240 female. There were 29 illegitimate births (13 male and 16 female) compared with 16 illegitimate births in 1942.

Still Births.

24 still births were registered during 1943. This gives a rate of 50.6 per 1,000 total births. There were 19 still births in 1942. Of the 24 still births one was illegitimate (female), and there were 11 legitimate males and 12 legitimate females.

Reference to the comparative table below shows that the still birth rate for Hebburn is above the rate for the whole country and the larger and smaller towns.

Deaths.

During 1943 there were 298 deaths registered. Of these 171

were male and 127 were female. The death rate for the year was 13.7 per 1,000 population. The Registrar General has been unable during war time to supply a comparability factor so that it is useless to compare this uncorrected death rate with that for the country as a whole.

The uncorrected death rate for 1942 was 13.1 per 1,000 population.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Cause.	Number.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System	59	20%
Cancer	40	13%
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	43	8%
Pneumonia	16	6%
Diseases of early infancy and congenital malformations	14	6%
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	21	7%

Notable changes in the causes of deaths during 1943 were:—

3 fewer females died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 9 more deaths occurred from Influenza and 10 more from Bronchitis and other respiratory diseases.

There were 4 fewer deaths from Prematurity. Road traffic accidents caused 5 deaths (male) compared with none last year. There were 8 fewer deaths from violence. So, that of the increase of 11 deaths over last year we can say it was probably due to the epidemic of Influenza which became prevalent towards the end of this year. Apart from that there has been an improvement in the general health.

Deaths of Hebburn Residents registered outside district:—

at 169, Harton Lane	66 deaths.
R.V.I., Newcastle	23 deaths.
Fleming Memorial Hospital	4 deaths.
Newcastle General Hospital	3 deaths.
Tindale Crescent Hospital, Bishop Auckland	2 deaths.
Lanchester E.M.S. Hospital	2 deaths.
Danesfield, Jarrow	1 death.
Hollywood Hall Sanatorium	1 death.
Shotley Bridge E.M.S. Hospital	1 death.
Helmington Row Sanatorium	1 death.

Osborne Avenue, Newcastle	1 death.
Crossgate, Durham	1 death.
Pelaw	1 death.
Easingwold	1 death.
High Barnes, Sunderland	1 death.
Bede Burn Road, Jarrow	1 death.
City Hospital for Infectious Diseases	1 death.

Total 112

The following table shews the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males.	Females.
All Causes.			171	127
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	1
3	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...
4	Whooping-Cough ...	...	...	1
5	Diphtheria ...	...	1	1
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	12	9
7	Other Tuberculous diseases ...	...	3	3
8	Syphilitic Disease ...	...	...	...
9	Influenza ...	...	4	5
10	Measles ...	...	1	...
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ...	...	...	...
12	Acute Infectious Encephalitis ...	...	1	...
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oeso- phagus (males): uterus (females)	...	7	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	3	3
15	Cancer of breast ...	...	...	3
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	17	6
17	Diabetes ...	...	...	...
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	...	10	11
19	Heart disease ...	...	24	20
20	Other diseases circulatory system	...	6	4
21	Bronchitis ...	...	12	11
22	Pneumonia ...	...	8	8
23	Other respiratory diseases ...	...	9	1
24	Ulceration of stomach or duodenum	...	2	1
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	4	2
26	Appendicitis ...	...	...	1
27	Other digestive diseases ...	...	2	5
28	Nephritis ...	...	2	...
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes ...	...	...	1
31	Premature birth ...	...	4	3
32	Congenital malformations, birth injury (infantile disease) ...	...	4	3
33	Suicide ...	...	1	1
34	Road traffic accidents ...	...	5	...
35	Other violent causes ...	...	8	1
36	All other causes ...	...	16	19

	England and Wales.	126 C.Bs. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns, Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Adm. County.	Hebburn.
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
Live Births	...	18.3	14.4	15.8	20.7
Still Births	...	0.63	0.61	0.61	1.1
DEATHS:—					
All Causes	...	14.2	12.7	15.0	13.7
Whooping Cough	...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04
Diphtheria	...	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.09
Influenza	...	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.41
Deaths under 1 year of age	...	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	...	58	46	58	64
	...	7.9	4.4	10.4	13.3
	Rates 1,000 Civilian Population.				
NOTIFICATIONS:—					
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.04
Scarlet Fever	...	3.29	3.54	3.80	2.2
Whooping Cough	...	2.82	2.25	2.08	2.2
Diphtheria	...	1.12	0.77	0.74	2.5
Erysipelas	...	0.36	0.27	0.42	0.75
Measles	...	9.23	9.77	9.17	6.6
Pneumonia	...	1.62	1.16	1.27	3.2
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births).				
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	11.68	9.26	18.28	2.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

29 deaths occurred in infants under 1 year old during 1943, compared with 33 last year. Neo-natal deaths, i.e. those occurring in the first 4 weeks of life, numbered 14 or 15% of the total, of these 14 deaths 5 were due to Prematurity, 6 congenital weakness or defects, and 3 due to gastro-enteritis. Of the 14 remaining deaths occurring after the 4th week of life, 6 were due to Pneumonia, 2 Bronchitis and 2 to Tuberculosis and 4 to congenital defects.

Congenital defects was therefore, the cause of death in 10 cases and Prematurity in 2 cases, compared with figures of 2 and 14 respectively last year. This reversal is rather curious but is possibly due to a change of fashion in certifying the cause of deaths.

The Infantile Mortality is 64 per 1,000 live births, therefore, we may infer that there has been a real improvement over last year and a vast improvement over 1941, when the rate was 128 per 1,000 live births.

MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk Supply continues to cause concern. Far too much of the milk is of a very doubtful bacteriological quality. There is no doubt in my mind that it would be an advantage at the present time if all milk was pasteurised before consumption. The Ministry of Food are endeavouring to have this done, but like nearly all war time schemes it is very slow in operation.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following list of Food and Drugs obtained in the Hebburn Urban District during the year 1943:—

Return of Samples submitted for Analysis.

Procured in the Hebburn U.D.

Year 1943.

Article.	Number analysed.			Number adulterated or otherwise giving rise to irregularity.		
	Formal.	Informal.	Total.	Formal.	Informal.	Total.
Sugar	2	...	2	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Butter	1	...	1			
Lard	1	...	1			
Blanc Mange Powder	1	...	1			
Scone Flour	1	...	1			
Semolina	1	...	1			
Cod Liver Oil	1	...	1			
Formalin & Mint Tablets...	1	...	1			
Oatmeal	1	...	1			
Coffee	1	...	1			
Soup	1	...	1			
Custard Powder Substitute.	1	...	1			
New Milk	9	...	9			
Evaporated Milk	1	...	1			
Full Cream Condensed Milk Sweetened .....	...	1	1		
	23	1	24			

VACCINATION.

The following table gives details of vaccination carried out during the year:—

Births.	Vaccinated Successfully.	Insusceptible.	Died unvaccinated.	Conscientious Objectors.	P.p. by Medical Cert.	Removed. Address Traced.	Removed. Address Not Traced.
299	179	nil.	19	85	2	11	3

DIPHTHERIA.

70 cases were notified and admitted to Hospital as Diphtheria.

47 of these cases proved to be Diphtheria. 3 cases proved to be Scarlet Fever, and 20 cases proved to be Tonsilitis.

There were two deaths from Diphtheria during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This was maintained throughout the year. The response was fairly good. By the end of the year 3,946 children had been immunised. During the year 120 children under 5 and 372 between the ages of 5 and 15 completed their course of injections.

45 children under 15 were notified and admitted to Hospital with Diphtheria. Of these 17 had been immunised at least 3 months before admission. There were no deaths from Diphtheria amongst these 17 children, 28 children had not been immunised before contracting Diphtheria, of these 2 died.

The following table shews the comparison between the immunised and unimmunised children:—

	Immunised.		Not Immunised.
Number of children under 15 ...	3,946	...	1,883 (estimated)
Number of Diphtheria cases ...	17	...	28
Attack rate per 1,000	4.2	...	15
Number of deaths	0	...	2
Case—Mortality per 100 cases..	0	...	7

This table shows a similar result to last year. Children who have been immunised have an attack rate almost 4 times better than those who have not been protected, and once more the deaths have all been in children who have not been immunised.

Another way of expressing the value of immunisation would be to apply the attack rate of 4.2 per 1,000 to all the children and compare that with the attack rate of 15 per 1,000:—

Estimated number of children at risk (under 15)	5,829
Number who would have got Diphtheria if all had been immunised 4.2×5.829	24
Number who would have got Diphtheria if none had been immunised 15×5.829	87

Therefore, we may conclude that immunisation has been responsible for a saving of 42 cases of Diphtheria and that if all the children had been immunised at least another 18 cases would have been saved.

This is very satisfactory so far as it goes, but there still remains a hard core of resisters, i.e., people who do not believe in immunisation, etc.

It is extremely difficult to persuade such people to have their children immunised. Yet up to date I have immunised 4,000 children with very few untoward results. Bad effects from the injections are sometimes seen especially in children over the age of 8 years. Extremely few bad reactions are seen in children of under school age.

SCARLET FEVER.

52 cases were notified and admitted to Hospital as Scarlet Fever.

50 Cases proved to be Scarlet Fever.

1 case proved to be Puerperal Fever.

1 case proved to be Tonsilitis.

3 cases sent in as Diphtheria proved to be Scarlet Fever.

More than 3/5ths of the cases occurred during the last 4 months of the year.

There were no deaths.

MEASLES.

150 cases of Measles were notified during 1943, compared with 280 in 1942. 143 of these cases were in children under 5 years of age. 88 cases (more than half) occurred during the months of June, July and August.

WHOOPING COUGH.

52 cases were notified during the year against 58 last year. Again the majority of cases were in children under 5.

ERYSIPELAS.

16 cases were notified. 8 of these occurred in the age group 46—65.

PNEUMONIA.

76 cases were notified against 68 in 1942. The disease was prevalent during the winter months and affected all ages.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—33 notifications were received compared with 43 in 1942. There were 23 deaths compared with 24 in 1942.

Nearly half of the males notified were in the age group 25—35.

More than half of the females notified were in the age group 15—25.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—10 notifications were received compared with 8 in 1942, while there were 5 deaths, the same number as last year.

Age Groups.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— I	—	—	—	2	—	I	—	I
I— 5	I	—	I	—	—	—	I	I
5—15	I	2	4	I	I	—	I	—
15—25	3	10	—	—	2	4	I	—
25—35	7	4	I	I	3	3	—	—
35—45	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
45—55	I	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	I	I	—	—
65 & Up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15	18	6	4	12	11	3	2

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis not previously notified —4.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information:—

The number of inhabitants of Hebburn attending the Clinics for Venereal Diseases during 1943 was 41 males and 21 females.

This is exactly the same as the numbers in 1942.

It may be perhaps assumed that Venereal Diseases are reaching a fairly steady level and the recent increase brought about by

the war being arrested. It must be borne in mind, however, that all cases of V.D. do not attend the clinics and therefore, the above figures must be accepted with caution as an index of the real position.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There were 124 cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital in 1943.

The following tables show the various categories into which the cases fell:—

Length of Stay in Hospital.

	Number.		Days.		Average.
Diphtheria	37	...	1992	...	42
Scarlet Fever	49	...	1183	...	24
Tonsilitis	21	...	139	...	67 6.7
Extra ^{MURAL} normal case	1	...	5	...	5
Miscellaneous	6	...	77	...	13
	—		—		—
Total	124	...	3396	...	27
	—		—		—

During 1942 there were 143 Cases Admitted to the Fever Hospital.

Month.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	November	December	Total
Males	5	5	1	3	3	2	4	1	9	8	5	6	52
Females	9	7	6	1	7	6	1	0	14	10	4	7	72
Total	14	12	7	4	10	8	5	1	23	18	9	13	124
Scarlet Fever...	7	3	2	0	3	3	1	1	7	13	6	6	52
Diphtheria	7	9	4	4	8	5	3	0	15	5	3	7	70
Varicella	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pertussis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Morbilli	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total	14	12	7	4	11	8	5	2	23	18	9	13	126

The Age—Sex Distribution of Cases.

Age in Year	0—1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	Total
Males	...	18	25	6	3	52
Females	...	24	41	5	2	72
Total	...	42	66	11	5	124

The Diagnosis on Admission of these Cases was as follows:—

Age in Years	0—1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	20	26	4	2	52
Diphtheria	...	20	41	7	2	70
Varicella	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pertussis	1	...	...	1
Morbilli	...	1	...	...	...	1
Total	...	42	68	11	5	126*

* 2 Cases of 2 Diseases.

The Diagnosis on Discharge of these Cases was as follows:—

Age in years	0—1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—45	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	20	27	3	3	53
Diphtheria	...	15	30	2	...	47
Morbilli	...	2	1	...	...	3
Tonsillitis	...	4	11	5	1	21
? Food Poisoning	...	1	...	...	...	1
Pertussis	1	...	...	1
Varicella	1	1
Puerperal Fever	1	...	1
Total	...	42	70	11	5	128*

* 4 Cases of 2 Diseases,

SECTION " C."**HOUSING.**

Health Department, Hebburn,

June, 1944.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

Housing and Overcrowding.

I have pleasure in submitting my First Annual Report upon the duties allocated to me by the Council, namely, Housing and Overcrowding, for the year 1943.

1. ERECTION OF HOUSES.

No new houses have been erected owing to the present emergency. After four years of war there is still no signs of relief to the Housing problem. At the time of writing this report in 1944, the Government are proposing to erect large numbers of "Pre-fabricated" Houses, in the post war period, which will have a limited "life" of 10 years. The main idea of these houses is to accelerate rehousing until such time that normal building operations can be put in hand.

The word "Prefabricated" seems to have given many people an erroneous idea, and they are prone to think they are getting something which will be shoddy or poor in quality.

I beg to suggest that no matter what method of rehousing is adopted, the Urban District of Hebburn should be high on the list for priority.

2. REPAIR OF EXISTING HOUSES.

(a) This work has continued in spite of increasing difficulties caused by shortage of labour and materials, but essential repairs must of course be carried out, and are enforced when necessary. Of the 211 houses inspected, 108 required attention. Preliminary Notices were served in respect of each house, all being dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936. All Notices served were followed up and works in progress supervised. In this connection 483 re-inspections were made.

As a result of informal action 63 houses were repaired. A substantial number of houses were also repaired by personally contacting the Owners or Agents concerned. A great number of

ineffective visits were made owing to housewives being engaged on war work, etc.

(b) Summary of Work Done in Compliance with Notices.

Roofs repaired	22
Chimney stacks repaired	2
Smoke Nuisances remedied	2
New Chimney pots provided	2
Eaves gutters renewed	4
Eaves gutters repaired or cleaned out	7
Downspouts renewed or repaired	8
External Walls repointed	5
Plasterwork renewed	5
Defective ceiling renewed	1
Dampness of walls remedied	7
Wood floors renewed or repaired	10
Windows renewed or repaired	6
Doors renewed or repaired	20
Staircases repaired	2
Fireplaces repaired	3
Ovens repaired	2
Sink waste pipe renewed	3
Sink drainage boards provided	2
New set pot provided	1
Water supply provided	3
Hot water system repaired	1
New wash basin provided	1
Sub-floor ventilation provided	5
Drains cleared	18
Inspection chambers cleared	4
W.C.'s cleared	4
New drains laid	2
Yard gullies and grates provided	3
New W.C. pedestals provided	2
Yard surfaces repaired	3
Outbuildings repaired	4
Accumulations of refuse removed	2
New dustbin provided	15

(c) Statutory Powers.

It was necessary to resort to Statutory Powers in the case of 10 houses, all being dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936.

The results of this formal action will be shown in the next Annual Report.

(d) Closing, Demolition and Clearance Orders.

No orders were made during the year in view of the need for conserving housing accommodation. It must be remembered, however, that there is a limit to the policy of repairing houses which have outlived their usefulness.

Work, under this heading, must follow immediately after the alleviation of gross overcrowding.

(e) Ministry of Health Circular 2871, 11th October, 1943.

General Scheme for Repairs of Houses.

In the last two months of the year, 22 certificates of Essentiality (Form C.W. 2), were issued in respect of 90 houses. The total cost being £310 15s. 0d., (i.e., £3 9s. 0d. approx. per house). In all cases these certificates were required by the Ministry of Supply (Timber Control Dept.) to enable Contractors to execute the most essential repairs.

In my monthly Report of November I pointed out that, so far as Hebburn was concerned great difficulty was being experienced in getting the minimum of essential repairs done, and that the Scheme did not help matters in the least, and was even causing further unnecessary delay, owing to the fact that in many cases Sanitary Notices had already been served for these essential repairs; and it was tantamount to giving a secondary proof of essentiality. After contacting the Regional Officer (Ministry of Health), Newcastle-on-Tyne, it was agreed that where the cost of these essential repairs was comparatively small, per house, a Certificate of Essentiality would not be required.

3. OVERCROWDING.

At the end of the year there were still 540 houses overcrowded, and occupied by 3,434 persons, which represents $15\frac{3}{4}\%$ of the total population.

As shown by the following figures the time has now arrived when the increase is out-stripping the relief of overcrowding.

Table 1.

Number of overcrowded houses on Register at beginning of year	533
---	-----

Deduct number of overcrowded houses which were decrowded during the year—

(a) Number decrowded due to rehousing by Local Authority	8	
(b) Number decrowded due to change of tenancy	3	
(c) Number decrowded due to reduction in size of family	4	
	—	15
		<hr/>
		= 518

Add number of Houses which became overcrowded during the year 22

Total number of overcrowded houses on Register at end of year 540

The total number of Overcrowded Houses is made up as follows:--

Table 2.

Type of House.	No. Overcrowded.	Approx. %.
2 Rooms	284	53%
3 Rooms	142	26%
4 Rooms	107	20%
5 Rooms	7	1%
Total ...	540	100%

During the year 81 investigations of Overcrowding were made in connection with the revision of the Overcrowding Register and the enforcement of the Overcrowding Provisions of the Housing Act, 1936.

Overcrowding Offences.—Two houses were found to be “Illegally Overcrowded” by the tenants concerned, but abatement was secured without resort to Legal Proceedings.

Temporary Overcrowding Licences. Sec. 61, Housing Act, 1936.

One Licence was granted for a period not exceeding 12 months under the above Section.

4. APPLICATION FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

During the year 50 inspections were made and particulars as

to occupants, accommodation, and conditions, were submitted with the necessary recommendations for the Treasurer's information. This information has proved useful as it is so essential to relieve overcrowding wherever possible when re-letting Council Houses.

5. **BILLETING.**

(a) No. of persons in receipt of Billeting Allowances at the beginning of the year	47
Increase during the year	5
	—
	52
Decrease during the year	38
	—
No. of persons in receipt of Billeting Allowances at end of the year	14
	==
(b) No. of Billeting Notices that expired during the year—	
Form B.	39
Form E.	5
	—
Total ...	44
	==

No. of persons involved were 52 adults
and 53 under 14 years
Giving a total of 105
=====

(c) All cases in receipt of Billeting Allowances are regularly and periodically investigated and a total of 120 visits were made for this purpose.

(d) **Mutual Aid Scheme.**—For the purpose of this Scheme, Hebburn is included in the South Tyneside Area (group 2), together with South Shields C.B., Jarrow M.B., and Boldon U.D.C.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. CHEATLE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Report of Sanitary Inspector.

Health Department, Hebburn,

December, 1943.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,—

I beg to submit to you my 29th Annual Report upon the work of the Sanitary Department for the year 1943. As arranged with you, I have endeavoured to make it as brief as possible.

The district has been systematically inspected for the detection of nuisances.

The tabulated returns are not shown in this report, but are kept for future references. It is distressing in the 4 years of war that so much food had to be condemned, as unfit for human consumption.

Air Raid Precautions which include Food Decontamination, Ministry of Home Security Smoke Production in Factories, Ministry of Supply Iron and Steel Control National Survey and Co-operation of Civil, Navy, Army and Air Force Authorities in sanitary matters, also received my attention.

I am, yours truly,

ROBERT McKELLAR,

Sanitary Inspector.

Factory Act, 1937.

There are 37 factories in the District. 111 inspections were made.

The information usually supplied to the Home Office on form 572 is not given in this year's report, in accordance with the Ministry's desire, the figures are tabulated for future references.

2. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The following table shows the number of sanitary conveniences in the District.

		Privy Ash-pits.	Privy Box-closets	Water- closets.	Total.
WEST WARD	...	;	...	526	526
CENTRAL WARD	692	692
NORTH WARD	785	785
EAST WARD	474	474
VICTORIA WARD	1460	1460
SOUTH WARD	2	1387	1389
MONKTON WARD	5	526	531
TOTALS	7	5850	5857

The privy boxes in use in the Area are situated as follows:—

SOUTH WARD—

Blue House Farm 1 Box Closet.
Newlands House 1 „ „

MONKTON WARD—

Quarry Houses 4 Box Closets.
Red House Farm 1 Box Closet.

FOOD DEFENCE PLANS.

Meat Inspection at Distribution Centre and Shops.

There is no slaughtering of Beasts and Sheep in Hebburn area, all the slaughtering is done at Newcastle and dispatched by Motor Van to our distribution centres. 40 lb. of Beef, 7 st. 7½ lb. of Bacon and 30 Rabbits were found to be unfit for human consumption and was destroyed.

Pig Clubs.

There are 4 Pig Clubs in the District and during the year 20 Pigs were slaughtered, and on examination were found to be of good quality.

Provision Shops and Stores.

The following list represents the quantity of food inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Food Stuffs Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

Chopped Ham	24 tins.
Pork Luncheon Meat	10 tins.
Corned Beef	32 tins.
Corned Pork	1 tin.
Corned Mutton	2 tins.
Tongue	2 tins.
Sausage Meat	9 tins.
Meat Galantine	2 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Casserole	1 tin.
Brisket Beef	1 tin.
Prepared Meal	2 tins.
Stewed Steak	3 tins.
Rabbits	30.
Beef	40 lbs.
Bacon	7 st. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Ham	3 lbs.
Eggs	8 dozen.
Butter	89 lbs.
Cheese	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Condensed Milk	164 tins.
Evaporated Milk	1,576 tins.
Salmon, Grade I.	2 tins.
Salmon, Grade III.	5 tins.
Pilchards	3 tins.
Haddocks	6 st.
Soups	9 tins.
Beans	18 tins.
Peas	11 tins.
Vegetables	4 tins.
Fruit	6 tins.
Potatoes	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ st.
Carrots	4 lbs.
Turnips	72 lbs.
Rice	6 x 100 lb. bag

Inspection of Houses Prior to Removal to Council Houses.

All houses of prospective tenants of Council Houses and outgoing tenants were inspected during the year.

In accordance with the Council's regulations, as to verminous houses, 20 were inspected, they were all free from vermin.

Ministry of Supply.

Iron and steel Control.

National Survey.

Gratifying results have been maintained during the year. This survey does not of course include general salvage scrap which is already being collected by any other arrangements.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 407 notifications of Infectious Diseases were received by the Medical Officer. When necessary the premises were inspected and the sanitary condition recorded and particulars respecting the history of the case were reported to the Medical Officer.

Patients removed to Hospital	124
Houses inspected	175
Houses disinfected	124
Clothing and bedding disinfected (lots)	124
Visits to infected houses	543

Simpson's Hotel.

Remains the same as in previous reports.

Common Lodging House.

Remains the same as in previous reports.

Cowsheds.

There are 4 cowsheds in the district, namely, Blue House Farm, Burnhead Farm, Red House Farm and Mill Lane Farm, the condition of the byers, etc., at Burnhead Farm and Red House Farm are far below the advisory standard for cowsheds, and I would recommend that they receive immediate attention under the post-war reconstruction schemes. The dwelling houses at the Burnhead Farm, Blue House Farm and Red House Farm require considerable alteration to bring them up to a modern standard for the occupants.

These cowsheds have been regularly cleansed and lime-washed during the year.

Dairies and Milkshops.

These premises have been frequently inspected, and in a few instances the occupiers have been warned against exposing milk to contamination.

Fumigation of Beds, Blankets, etc.

During the year 3,307 blankets, 854 beds, 685 pillows and 80 covers, belonging to the A.R.P. personnel and the Fire Guard personnel, were fumigated.

Rats and Mice Destruction Order, 1919.

Mr. Gibbons the County Executive Officer under the above order, when requested, visited this district and gave his advice and laid poison baits where required.

MILK SUPPLY.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936:—

8 samples of ordinary milk, were taken and submitted to the Bacterodological Department, Newcastle upon Tyne, for examination during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 6 slaughter houses in the district. None have been used during the year, all slaughtering being done in Newcastle.

Notifiable Disease	At Ages—Years.							Wards.												Total No. Notified.	Removed to Hospital.							
	under 1.	1 to 5						January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December			W	C	N	E	V	M	S
		6 to 15	16 to 25	26 to 45	46 to 65	66 up.	at all ages																					
Diphtheria	...	17	30	6	2	...	55	4	7	3	2	7	4	2	2	8	5	4	7	7	11	8	3	11	4	11	55	70
Encephalitis lethargica
Enteric Fever
Erysipelas	...	2	...	1	4	8	16	1	3	3	2	...	1	1	1	2	...	2	...	3	2	1	...	7	1	2	16	...
Ophthalmia	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...
Pneumonia	...	5	13	9	10	16	76	10	7	11	8	2	7	2	2	1	9	9	8	8	6	9	9	20	10	14	76	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	22	22	5	1	...	50	7	3	2	...	2	2	1	1	8	13	5	6	9	4	7	3	9	8	10	50	52
Small Pox
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...	1	1	12	11	6	31	5	...	8	1	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	6	5	3	3	9	...	5	31	...
Non-Pulmonary	2	4	3	...	2	...	11	3	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	2	1	1	2	2	1	...	1	4	11	...
Measles	...	4139	7	...	...	...	150	23	8	8	8	6	22	45	21	8	1	...	...	21	25	13	8	18	21	44	150	1
Whooping Cough	...	3	4	4	1	...	52	12	3	9	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	10	12	8	4	2	6	16	3	13	52	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	*1
Totals	...	15244	76	34	38	30	8445	65	32	45	22	19	40	54	34	32	31	35	36	63	59	47	33	90	49	104	445	...

* Walker Gate Hospital.

